

Chapter Three

Population

Population Trends

The total population of the City of Westminster in 2000 was 16,731 people. Of this total, 46.8% were male and 53.2% were female. Since 1990, the City has grown at an average annual growth rate of 2.8% (Table 3.1), slightly higher than the average annual increase for Carroll County of 2.3% during the same time period. The primary reason for the disparity in these two percentages was the comparatively higher number of homes constructed within the Westminster corporate limits during the 1990's. The average annual increase for the past ten years is significantly lower than the City's average annual increase of 4.8% during the 1980's and represents a slower rate of new construction during the most recent decade.

Table 3.1. City of Westminster Population Change, 1970 – 2000

Age	1970	1980	70 - 80 Percent Change	1990	80 - 90 Percent Change	2000	70 - 00 Percent Change	80 - 00 Percent Change	90 - 00 Percent Change
Under 5	523	529	1.15	1070	102.27	1127	115.49	113.04	5.33
5 - 9	479	481	0.42	757	57.38	1256	162.21	161.12	65.92
10 - 14	429	483	12.59	696	44.1	1107	158.04	129.19	59.05
15 - 19	996	1064	6.83	1073	0.85	1382	38.76	29.89	28.8
20 - 24	1057	1484	40.4	1660	11.86	1585	49.95	6.81	-4.52
25 - 34	849	1473	73.5	2699	83.23	2538	198.94	72.3	-5.97
35 - 44	505	751	48.71	1750	133.02	2719	438.42	262.05	55.37
45 - 54	706	573	-18.84	825	43.98	1771	150.85	209.08	114.67
55 - 64	726	738	1.65	711	-3.66	1043	43.66	41.33	46.69
65 - 74	577	703	21.84	878	24.89	884	53.21	25.75	0.68
75 +	360	529	46.94	949	79.4	1319	266.39	149.34	38.99
Total	7207	8808	22.21	13068	48.37	16731	132.15	89.95	28.03

Source: U.S. Census, 1970, 1980, 1990, and 2000.

The age groups with the highest percentage of the population in the City of Westminster were the 20 – 24 and 35 – 39 age groups (Table 3-2). Each of these age groups included slightly less than 10% of the City's total population. The high percentage in the 20 – 24 age group was due in part to the U.S. Census being conducted in April when McDaniel College is in session. While the 20 – 24 age group remained the largest group, the actual population of that group dropped 4.5% over the past ten years. In addition, the 25 – 29 age group lost 417 people, dropping 35% since 1990. These losses were countered by large gains in the age groups comprising ages 35 – 54. Collectively, these age groups increased in population by an average of 85%. These notable swings in the age group populations indicate an aging population in the City of Westminster.

Table 3.2. City of Westminster Population by Age and Sex, 2000

Age	Total	Male	Female
Under 5	1127	554	573
5 - 9	1256	634	622
10 - 14	1107	581	526
15 - 19	1382	663	719
20 - 24	1585	787	798
25 - 29	1197	569	628
30 - 34	1341	673	668
35 - 39	1486	733	753
40 - 44	1233	624	609
45 - 49	924	450	474
50 - 54	847	395	452
55 - 59	590	270	320
60 - 64	453	198	255
65 - 69	420	169	251
70 - 74	464	174	290
75 - 79	435	140	295
80 - 84	431	116	315
85 - 89	289	60	229
90 +	164	34	130
Total	16731	7824	8907

Source: U.S. Census, 2000.

The minority populations in Westminster accounted for only a small percentage of the total (Table 3.3). In 2000, blacks represented 5.5% of the population with a total of 919. Native Americans, Asian and Pacific Islanders, and other races comprised 3.2% of the City's population. Just fewer than 300 people identified themselves as Hispanic or Latino, representing 1.8% of the City's population. 91.3% of the City's population identified themselves as white – just less than a 2% drop from 1990. Asians and Pacific Islanders accounted for the largest gain in population for a race group from 1990 to 2000; quadrupling from 55 people in 1990 to 207 in 2000.

Figure 3.1. City of Westminster Population Pyramid, 2000

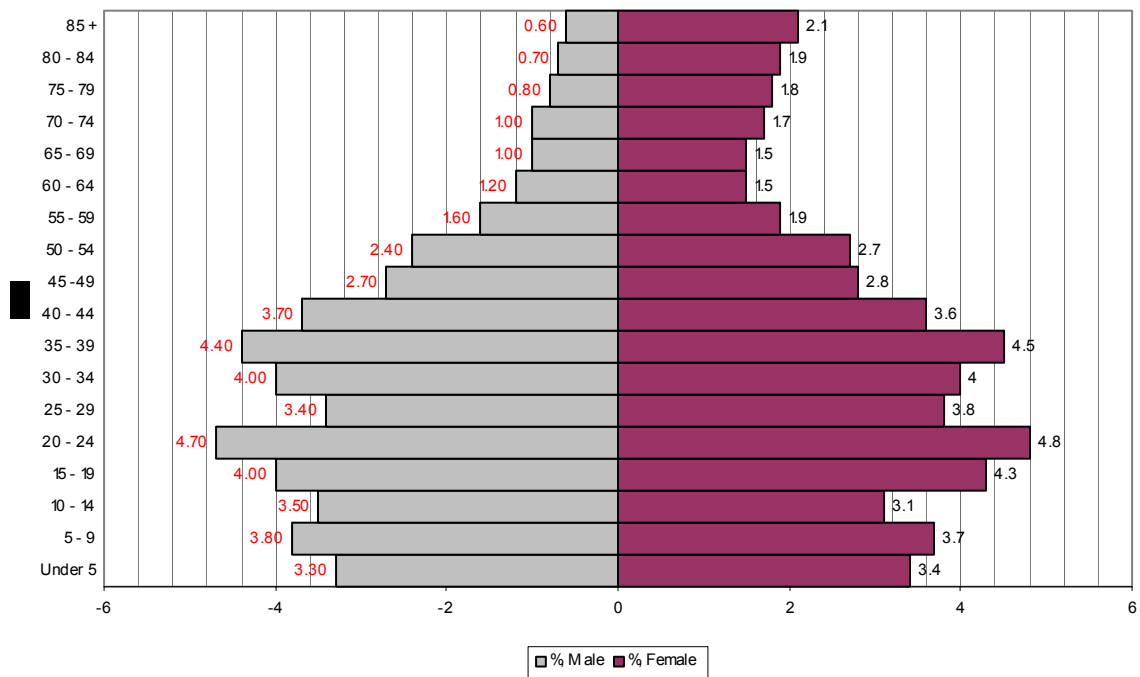


Figure 3.2. City of Westminster Population Pyramid (Projected), 2025

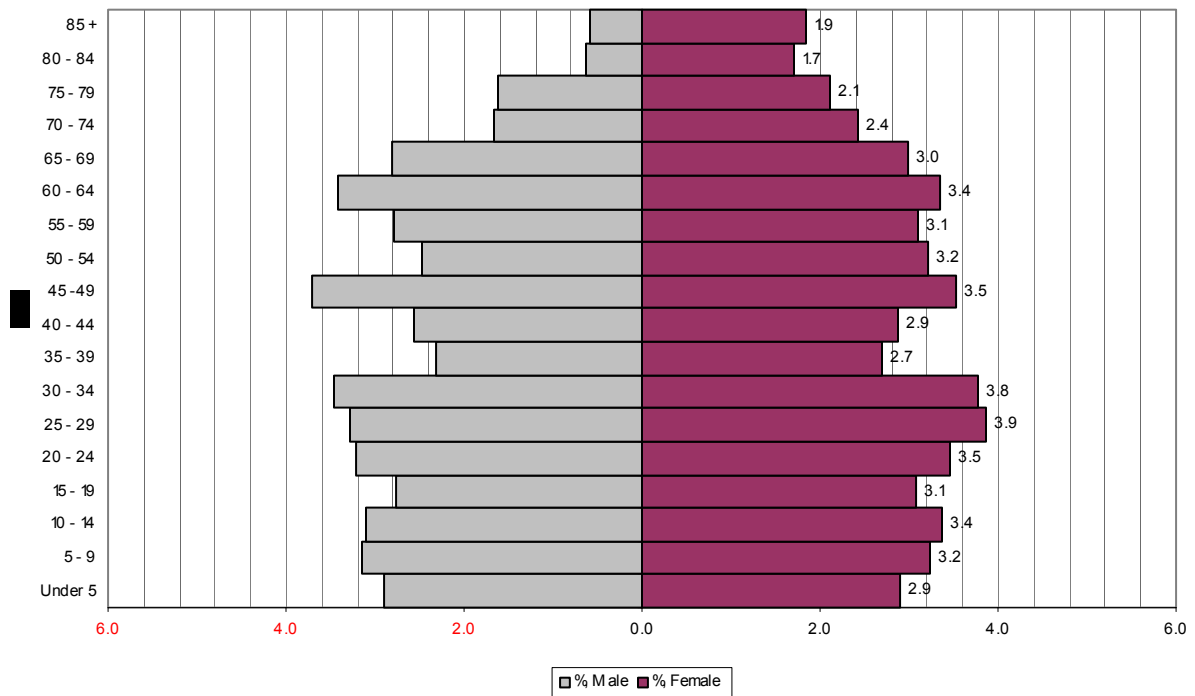


Table 3.3. City of Westminster Population by Age and Race, 2000

Age	All Races	White	Black	Amer Ind, Eskimo, & Aleut	Asian & Pacific Islander	Other Race	Two or More Races
0 - 4	1127	1007	60	1	12	12	35
5 - 17	2906	2565	199	8	47	27	60
18 - 24	2424	2204	130	5	39	18	28
25 - 44	5257	4807	281	12	82	40	35
45 - 64	2814	2582	177	11	19	8	17
65+	2203	2107	72	1	8	4	11
Total	16731	15272	919	38	207	109	186
% of Total	100.0%	91.3%	5.5%	0.2%	1.2%	0.7%	1.1%

Source: U.S. Census, 2000.

Population Projections by age group are shown for the City of Westminster in Table 3.4 for five-year increments through the year 2025. The total population for the City is projected to reach 23,415 by the year 2025, with the greatest increase occurring in the older age groups. This change in the distribution of age in Westminster's population follows a national trend and is particularly apparent in the population pyramids found in Figures 3-1 and 3-2.

The population predictions were developed using a cohort-component method, which involved applying separate birth, death, and migration rates to each male or female age group. Low, medium and high rates were determined based on previous trends and rates calculated from data provided by the Maryland Department of Health Statistics and the U.S. Census Bureau. The low, medium and high rates were then applied to base year data for 2000, the most recent year in which the Census of Population was taken. The resulting figures were compared to population estimates completed by the Carroll County Department of Planning, current development trends, and the amount of land available for future development within the City of Westminster corporate limits. It was determined that it would be most appropriate to use medium birth and death rates to project population through 2025.

To calculate population increases and decreases due to migration, the high rate was used for most age groups through 2015. A medium rate was applied to the model for the 2020 and 2025 projections to represent the expected reduction in in-migration as the amount of land available for development in the City of Westminster decreases. The low rate was used for certain age groups for all projected years to correlate with County projections and correct for bias due to the presence of McDaniel College.

The population projection for the year 2025 is a 40.0% increase above the Census 2000 City population of 16,731. This percent increase represents a total increase in population of 6,684 people over the first quarter of the century.

Table 3.4. City of Westminster Population Projections, 2000 – 2025

Age	1990 *	2000 *	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	% Change 2000 - 2025
Under 5	1070	1127	1021	1096	1234	1306	1356	20%
5 - 9	757	1256	1318	1399	1288	1425	1498	19%
10 - 14	696	1107	1346	1464	1489	1350	1515	37%
15 - 19	1073	1382	1125	1447	1482	1466	1368	-1%
20 - 24	1660	1585	1477	1221	1542	1577	1561	-2%
25 - 29	1614	1197	1681	1573	1318	1638	1673	40%
30 - 34	1085	1341	1258	1831	1632	1332	1697	27%
35 - 39	953	1486	1182	1353	1669	1346	1172	-21%
40 - 44	797	1233	1415	1269	1283	1624	1276	4%
45 - 49	418	924	1305	1512	1341	1342	1693	83%
50 - 54	407	847	923	1297	1500	1293	1333	57%
55 - 59	302	590	942	1018	1384	1583	1380	134%
60 - 64	409	453	644	987	1050	1391	1584	250%
65 - 69	383	420	468	697	975	1011	1357	223%
70 - 74	495	464	440	496	683	915	958	106%
75 - 79	428	435	481	479	509	665	875	101%
80 - 84	286	431	390	466	417	414	549	27%
85 +	235	453	559	619	623	555	569	26%
Total	13068	16731	17974	20224	21418	22232	23415	40%

Prepared by the City of Westminster Department of Planning and Public Works, 2004.

Births & Deaths

Crude birth and death rates are available for Carroll County as a whole; information for individual municipalities such as Westminster has not been tracked. For the years 1995 through 2000, the County's average annual birth rate was 12.6 per 1,000 population (Table 3.5). During this time period, the lowest birth rate was recorded in 1999 at 12.0 births per 1,000 population, and the highest rate occurred in 1996 at 13.3 births per 1,000 population. A smaller second peak occurred in 1998 with a birth rate of 12.8.

Table 3.5. Birth and Death Rates, Carroll County, MD 1995 – 2000

Year	Birth Rate			Death Rate		
	Total	White	Other Races	Total	White	Other Races
1995	12.9	13.1	8.6	7.2	7.3	5.4
1996	13.3	13.4	11.7	7.2	7.4	3.8
1997	12.4	12.5	9.8	6.9	7.0	4.3
1998	12.8	12.9	12.5	7.0	7.0	5.0
1999	12.0	12.1	7.1	6.6	6.8	5.0
2000	12.6	12.6	7.6	7.6	7.7	6.2
6 Year Average	12.7	12.7	9.6	7.1	7.2	5.0

Source: Carroll County Demographics & Data Manual, 2003.

Death rates for the County also fluctuated between 1995 and 2000. The average annual death rate for these years was 7.1 per 1,000 population, with a low of 6.6 in 1999 and a high of 7.6 in 2000. Some of the variations in yearly birth and death rates for Carroll County can be attributed to the relatively small population of the County. For example, an increase in the number of deaths in the County by only 1.5% would result in a one-tenth increase in the death rate.

Infant mortality rates are also available only on a county-by-county basis. Infant mortality rates, recorded as the number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births, was 4.8 for all races in Carroll County in 2001 (Table 3.6). This was the second lowest rate recorded for the Baltimore Metropolitan Region, which also encompasses Baltimore City and Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Harford, and Howard Counties.

Table 3.6. Infant Mortality in the Baltimore Metropolitan Area, 2001

Jurisdiction	All Races		White		Black		Hispanic	
	Deaths	Rate	Deaths	Rate	Deaths	Rate	Deaths	Rate
Anne Arundel	44	6.4	30	5.4	14	14	4	---
Baltimore City	108	11.9	10	4.3	97	14.8	1	---
Baltimore County	75	8.3	36	6	36	14.2	4	---
Carroll	9	4.8	8	4.4	1	---	0	---
Harford	8	2.8	4	---	4	---	0	---
Howard	20	5.6	13	5.1	5	8.5	2	---
Metro Area	264	7.9	101	4.9	157	14.2	11	11.2

Source: Carroll County Demographics & Data Manual, 2003.

Infant mortality rates are generally not calculated in instances where four or fewer deaths have occurred, as the sample size is too small to provide a reliable measure of infant mortality. Since the total number of people of minority races is so small in the County, a low number of deaths result in a deceptively high percentage. Therefore, no rate is given for races other than white in the County.

Marital Status and Children

The U.S. Census calculates marital status figures based on the population of persons aged 15 and older. Of this group of 12,937 persons in 2000, 28% had never married and 45% were married with the spouse present (Table 3.7). Other categories included: spouse absent – separated (3%), spouse absent – other (5%), widowed (8%), and divorced (11%). A breakdown of the data by sex reveals that 13% more males than females have never been married. Additionally, there are approximately 9 widowed females for every widowed male in the City. This figure is indicative of the higher life expectancy for females nationwide.

Table 3.7. City of Westminster Marital Status by Sex, Persons 15 Years & Older, 2000

	Never Married	Married - Spouse Present	Married - Spouse Absent	Spouse Absent - Separated	Widowed	Divorced
Male	1924	2853	424	145	131	606
Female	1705	2855	646	265	943	850
Total	3629	5708	1070	410	1074	1456
Percent	28%	45%	8%	3%	8%	11%

Source: U.S. Census, 2000.

Based on marital status and the presence of children, the 6,415 households present in the City of Westminster in 2000 could be divided into married couple households (42.4%), other family households (16.2%), and non-family households (41.4%). “Other family households” included those families in which one spouse was absent. A comparison of household types by race revealed several contrasts (Table 3.8). The recorded races with the highest percentage of married couple households were Asian & Pacific Islander and White with 66.1% and 43.1% respectively. The percentage of female householders with children and no husband present was 17.5% for black households, down from 25.9% in 1990. For Hispanic and Latino households, the percentage of female householders with children and no husband present was 20.1% (the 2000 Census was the first count to include a “Hispanic” option for race, so no 1990 data are available). Whites were the group with the largest percentage of non-family households with 42.1%.

Table 3.8. City of Westminster Household Types by Race, 2000

Household Type	All Races	White	Black	Amer Ind, Eskimo, & Aleut	Asian & Pacific Islander	Hispanic	Other Race
Family Households	3760	3435	198	8	44	55	20
Married Couple Family	2722	2555	90	1	37	28	11
With Own Children	1413	1315	45	1	28	16	8
No Own Children	1309	1240	45	0	9	12	3
Other Family	1038	880	108	7	7	27	9
Female Householder, no husband present	811	694	86	6	3	17	5
With Own Children	536	454	53	5	2	17	5
No Own Children	275	240	33	1	1	0	0
Male Householder, no wife present	227	186	22	1	4	10	4
With Own Children	140	114	14	1	2	5	4
No Own Children	87	72	8	0	2	5	0
Nonfamily Households	2655	2500	104	3	12	29	7
Total Households	6415	5935	302	11	56	84	27

Source: U.S. Census, 2000.

Place of Birth and Ancestry

Over 67% of the residents living in the City of Westminster in 2000 were born in the State of Maryland, and of the 28% of residents born in other states within the United States, half were born in a northeastern state (Table 3.9). 3.2% of the population was foreign-born, up from 1.6% in 1990.

Table 3.9. Birthplace of City of Westminster Residents, 2000

Place of Birth	Number of Persons	Percent
Born in the U.S.		
Born in State of Residence	11125	67.7
Born in other state in U.S.		
Northeast	2300	14
Midwest	666	4.1
South	1482	9
West	215	1.3
Born outside the U.S., Native		
Puerto Rico	42	0.3
U.S. Island Areas	0	0
Born abroad of American parent(s)	80	0.5
Foreign Born	533	3.2
Total	16443	100

Source: U.S. Census, 2000

The ancestry of Westminster residents in 2000 was largely German, with other frequently reported ancestries being Irish, English, and Hispanic. Other categories that received a significant number of responses included Dutch, Italian, Polish, and United States or American.

These ancestries were reflected somewhat by the language spoken at home by persons 5 years of age and older (Table 3.10). The majority of people spoke only English at home; however, 2% spoke Spanish and the sum of all other Indo-European languages totaled 3.2%.

Table 3.10. Language Spoken at Home by Persons 5 Years and Older, 2000

Language	Number of Persons	Percent of Total	Percent of Non-English
English	14359	94	---
Spanish	305	2	33.2
Other Indo-European	484	3.2	52.7
Asian & Pacific Island	48	0.3	5.2
Total	15277	100	---

Source: U.S. Census, 2000.

Recent Migration

According to the U.S. Census, 50.3% of City residents in 2000 have moved since 1995 (Table 3.11). Of those who have moved since 1995, half have relocated from other residences within Carroll County. Combined, 75% of City residents in 2000 lived in Westminster or Carroll County in 1995. Significant sources of in-migration include other counties in the State of Maryland (15.0%), other states in the northeast (4.4%), and other states in the south (4.0%).

The lower portion of Table 3.11 reveals that a vast majority of in-state in-migration to Westminster is occurring from suburban counties in the Baltimore area. Only 7% of those who moved to Westminster from another home within the Baltimore MSA moved from Baltimore City. This figure reflects a national trend for communities located on the suburban fringe of metropolitan areas.

**Table 3.11. Place of Residence in 1995
for Residents of the City of Westminster, 2000**

Location	Total	Percent
Same House	7344	48.1
Different House in U.S.	7689	50.3
Same County	3923	25.7
Different County	3766	24.7
Same State	2285	15.0
Different State	1481	9.7
Northeast	669	4.4
Midwest	154	1.0
South	605	4.0
West	53	0.3
Elsewhere	244	1.6
Total	15277	100.0
Same MSA	5589	
Central City	392	7.0
Not Central City	5197	93.0

The Baltimore Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) includes Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Howard, and Anne Arundel Counties, and Baltimore City.

Source: U.S. Census, 2000.

Education

The 2000 Census also reported the level of educational attainment for all persons 25 years of age and older (Table 3.12) in the City of Westminster. More than 82% of residents in the City had received a high school diploma, and 24.4% of the population had completed the requirements for a college or professional degree. A comparison between 1990 and 2000 reveals that the actual number of persons age 25 and over without a high school diploma dropped significantly during the 1990s.

**Table 3.12. Educational Attainment
of Persons 25 Years and Older, 2000**

Highest Level of Education	1990		2000	
	Number of Persons	Percent	Number of Persons	Percent
Less than 9th Grade	743	9.5	690	6.8
9th to 12th Grade, No Diploma	1196	15.3	1128	11.1
High School Graduate	2438	31.2	3198	31.5
Some College, No Degree	1358	17.4	2084	20.5
Associate's Degree	364	4.7	577	5.7
Bachelor's Degree	1001	12.8	1569	15.5
Graduate or Professional Degree	712	9.1	906	8.9
Total	7812	100	10152	100

Source: U.S. Census, 2000.

Between 2000 and 2003, the graduation rate for Carroll County varied between 88.6% and 91.9% (Table 3.13). With the exception of Howard County, which had an average rate of 92.2%, the graduation rate for Carroll County was the highest in the Baltimore Metropolitan Region.

Table 3.14 shows the graduation rates for all public Carroll County high schools from 2000 – 2003. The City of Westminster is served by Westminster High School and Winters Mill High School. Westminster High School had an average graduation rate of 89.2% over the past four years. Winters Mill opened in 2003 and has not yet had a graduating class.

Table 3.13. Graduation Rates in the Baltimore Metropolitan Region, 2000 – 2003.

Jurisdiction	2000	2001	2002	2003
Anne Arundel County	80.9%	79.9%	81.4%	83.7%
Baltimore City	50.6%	58.7%	58.5%	54.2%
Baltimore County	89.5%	88.2%	88.0%	88.2%
Carroll County	90.0%	88.6%	90.5%	91.9%
Harford County	84.1%	84.1%	83.0%	85.2%
Howard County	91.3%	92.5%	91.9%	93.0%
Maryland	81.8%	83.1%	83.8%	84.7%

Source: Maryland Department of Education, "2003 Performance Report."

Table 3.14. Graduation Rates for Carroll County Public High Schools, 2000 – 2003.

High School	2000	2001	2002	2003
Francis Scott Key	84.9%	86.9%	85.8%	91.8%
North Carroll	91.8%	89.1%	93.2%	92.7%
Winters Mill	--	--	--	--
Westminster	89.6%	87.4%	88.0%	92.0%
Century	--	--	--	--
Liberty	94.8%	93.3%	96.1%	94.5%
South Carroll	93.8%	92.6%	93.1%	92.6%
Maryland	81.8%	83.1%	83.8%	84.7%

Source: Maryland Department of Education, "2003 Performance Report."